



STATE OF INDIANA
INDIANA STATE EXCISE POLICE

302 W. Washington Street
IGCS, Room E-114
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Corporal Travis Thickstun
Public Information Officer
Telephone 317-232-2469
tthickstun@atc.in.gov
www.in.gov/isep

For Immediate Release

Excise Officer Helps Deliver Baby at Gas Station

CLAY COUNTY, Ind. (April 19) – An Indiana State Excise Police officer driving home at the end of his shift this morning assisted with delivering a baby girl at a Clay County gas station.

Excise Police Lt. Christopher Bard, who was on his way home from Bloomington, noticed something unusual in a gas station parking lot around 4:08 a.m. As he drove by the gas station at State Road 46 and State Road 59 near Ashboro, Ind., he saw a Pontiac with the passenger-side door open and a second person down near the passenger's lap. When he approached the car, he saw that the passenger, a 22-year-old Greencastle woman, was in the process of delivering a baby. Her mother, who is trained as an advanced EMT, was in the process of delivering the baby.

At her request, Lt. Bard cut one of the mother's shoelaces with his knife. He then held the baby girl in a blanket while the woman's mother cut the umbilical cord and tied off the baby's end with the shoelace Lt. Bard cut off her shoe. The woman's mother told Lt. Bard she was going to take her daughter and newborn granddaughter to Union Hospital herself instead of waiting for an ambulance.

Lt. Bard provided an escort to Union Hospital, where the newborn baby girl and her mother were both doing well this morning.

Indiana State Excise Police officers are the enforcement division of the Indiana Alcohol and Tobacco Commission. As a public safety agency, excise police are trained and prepared to provide emergency assistance to the public anytime it's needed.

"Often, law enforcement officers respond to situations involving serious injury or that are often unpleasant, but helping a new baby come into the world is a great way to end a shift," Superintendent Matt Strittmatter said. "I am glad the mother and child are doing well, and I am certain this will be an event that Lt. Bard will always remember."

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